

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /161 W

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R 241437Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2032

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID PFOR SGEN

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER PRONK'S STATEMENTS ON AID POLICY
AND RELATED MATTERS

SUMMARY: AS GUEST SPEAKER AT 20 SEPT MEETING OF CLUB DE JEUDI
(DIPLOMATIC LUNCHEON GROUP), MINISTER PRONK OF DEVELOPMENT AID
STATED THAT DOMINANT ASPECT OF DEVELOPMENT AID IN WORLD OF TODAY IS
CRISIS. CRISIS IS APPARENT IN NEED FOR REDISTRIBUTION, IN
DEVELOPMENT THEORY, IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND IN POLITICAL
WILL AND PUBLIC OPINION. GON AID WILL LARGELY BE CHANNELED THROUGH
MULTILATERAL BODIES, AND ALSO BILATERALLY TO GOVTS "REALLY"
WORKING FOR THEIR UNDERPRIVILEGED. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REDISTRIBUTION
OF WEALTH MUST BEGIN AT HOME TO BE EFFECTIVELY INTRODUCED IN LDCS.
EC AND NATO POLICIES SHOULD BE CHANGED. RESUME OF PRONK'S
STATEMENTS FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY

1. REDISTRIBUTION. FAST GROWTH OF GNP IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN
UNEVEN AMONG BOTH COUNTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS. MASSES HAVE NOT
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BENEFITED. REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND INCOME HAS BEEN STYMIED

AND DIFFERENCES IN BOTH HAVE GROWN. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ELITE AND
MASSES SHOULD BE DECREASED AS HAS OCCURRED IN PRC AND INDIA.
DIFFERENCES CAN NEVER BE ENTIRELY ELIMINATED.

2. THEORY. PREVAILING PRE-WW2 EXPLANATIONS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
DEVELOPED AND UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES DID LITTLE MORE THAN
UNBURDEN CONSCIENCES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. NEW THING IN 60'S WAS
IRRATIONAL OPTIMISM RE INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGNTY FOR ALL PEOPLES
ASSUMING IT WOULD MEAN "INEVITABLE GROWTH FOR ALL." FACT IS THAT
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STAGNATED. NEW THEORIES MUST NOW BE TRANSLATED
INTO POLICY, BUT THIS HAS NOT YET OCCURRED.

3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. HOPES FOR UNITED NATIONS HAVE NOT
MATERIALIZED. NATIONAL INTERESTS PREVAIL; U.S. OFTEN MAKES CLEAR
ITS DISBELIEF IN UN FAMILY OR MECHANISM. POLARIZATION HAS OCCURRED
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES. POLARIZATION MAY BE BENEFICIAL BY
FORCING RICH COUNTRIES TO TAKE NEEDS OF POOR COUNTRIES ERIOUSLY.
BUT SO FAR ATTITUDE OF NEGLECT HAS PREVAILED ON PART OF RICH
COUNTRIES, "ASIDE FROM EXPLOITATION WHICH IS ANOTHER STORY."

4. POLITICAL WILL AND PUBLIC OPINION. THERE IS NO ANSWER YET,
INCLUDING IN THE NETHERLANDS, WHY DECREASE IN POLITICAL WILL TO AID
POOR COUNTRIES HAS OCCURRED SO BROADLY. CLEAR CONCEPT OF
RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEANS OF DEVELOPMENT IS NEEDED. PRESENT NETHS
GOVT WILL BASE ITS POLICY ON "IDENTIFICATION WITH THE UNDER-
PRIVILEGED." REDISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY, WEALTH AND DECISION-MAKING
POWER IN ONE'S OWN COUNTRY IS ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR
SUBSTANTIAL AID AND REDISTRIBUTION IN POOR COUNTRIES. "INEQUALITY
IN OUR OWN COUNTRY IS THE SAME AS UNEQUAL, CAPITALISTIC SOCIETY
IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE." MEDICAL INCOME, INCOME OF CIVIL SERVANTS,
LAND OWNERSHIP REQUIRE REDISTRIBUTION, WHILE FACTORY WORKERS SHOULD
BE GIVEN PROPERTY RIGHTS; "THE TIME FOR CAPITAL OWNING PEOPLE IS
OVER."

5. COLONIALISM IS FORM OF TYRANNY AND MUST BE ATTACKED FIRST THROUGH
UN. THERE IS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COLONIALISM AND RACISM.

6. GON AID POLICY. AID WILL HAVE HIGHER PRIORITY -- 20 PER CENT
INCREASE IN 1974 AID BUDGET IS GOOD BUT NOT ENOUGH. AID WILL
PRIMARILY BE EXTENDED THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS AS BEST MEANS
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OF BEING USED FOR BENEFIT OF LESS DEVELOPED. BILATERAL AID WILL BE
ACCORDED TO GOVTS REALLY TRYING TO BENEFIT THEIR UNDERPRIVILEGED,
SUCH AS TANZANIA AND, UNTIL THE PREVIOUS WEEK, CHILE, NOW VICTIM OF
A "FASCIST CONTROL." POLITICAL NEUTRALITY IN ALLOCATION OF AID
SHOULD NOT BE FAVORED SINCE IT GIVES RISE TO SUPPORT OF GOVT
ELITE. GON WILL FAVOR LONG-TERM LOW INTEREST LOANS TO LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. BASIC AIM IS TO "GIVE POWER TO THOSE WITHOUT
POWER AND ORGANIZE SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT

PARTICIPATED IN DEVELOPMENT."

7. ATTITUDES TOWARD EC AND NATO. EC POLICY SHOULD BE CHANGED. EC HAS BUILT INSTITUTIONS ON BASIS OF STATUS QUO, WHILE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL POLICY SHOULD FIRST BE FORMED AS FOUNDATION FOR INSTITUTIONS. UNTIL NOW, DUTCH HAVE BEEN "VERY EUROPEAN," BUT REDISCUSSION IS NOW TAKING PLACE. PURPOSE OF NATO IS SECURITY, BUT THIS CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH NEED FOR JUSTICE. GON WILL TRY WITHIN FOUR YEARS TO BE "CRITICAL DOG" IN NATO; IT WILL NOT LEAVE NATO WITHOUT TRYING FIRST TO SET TREND.

8. COMMENT: PRONK IS A FORCEFUL, SELF-ASSURED SPEAKER WHO RELISHES BREAKING SOMEONE ELSE'S CHINA BY HIS VEHEMENT, ADMONITORY JUDGMENTS. HE EXPRESSES HIS CONCEPTS COGENTLY AND AROUSES THE INTEREST IF NOT ALWAYS THE SYMPATHY OF HIS AUDIENCE. HE IS MOST LEFT-WING MEMBER OF CABINET AND HIS PROPOSALS WILL NO DOUBT BE SUBSTANTIALY MODERATED WHEN THEY ARE CONSIDERED BY CABINET. HOWEVER, HIS OBJECTIVE OF INCREASED BUDGET FOR AID IN NEXT FEW YEARS MAY WELL BE REALIZED.
TANGUY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THEHA04191
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730914/aaaaajtz.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER PRONK'S STATEMENTS ON AID POLICY AND RELATED MATTERS
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, SGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005